

**From:** Robert Nelson  
**To:** BFoer@antitrustinstitute.org@inetgw  
**Date:** 1/24/02 2:34pm  
**Subject:** Please reconsider your stance against Microsoft!

American Antitrust Institute  
2919 Ellicott Street, N.W. Suite 1000  
Washington D.C. 20008-1022  
Attention: Albert A. ("Bert") Foer, President

Mr. Foer,

Your late actions in the Microsoft anti-trust case are contrary to the interests of business owners, stockholders of all technical stocks, and the American, as well as much of the international public, as well as the economy of the United States, and is a threat to technological innovation.

Your qualifications for membership are, from your site, as follow (bold case is ours) : " I have visited the AAI website (www.antitrustinstitute.org) and reviewed its contents. I am in general agreement with the philosophy represented by the AAI and wish to be affiliated as a Friend. I will abide by the conditions of membership as set forth on the website" indicate the appearance of your having little to no interest in hearing from those who oppose your actions and views.

Most people in the data processing field oppose the view and stance you have taken at this late date. We believe, and have reason to believe, that the entire matter was begun by competitors who charged more, delivered less, and under whose guidance the personal computer and software would remain prohibitively expensive for the average consumer. Microsoft has made software affordable, dependable, and easily available. No company has absorbed as much software piracy as Microsoft without prosecuting users, either.

The legal attacks and moves by certain competitors has resulted in an either/or decision on the part of many Information Technology Directors and Chief Information Officers. We know how to write software, and (in my case) have been doing so since 1968. The actions of Microsoft's competitors has already backfired as we have continued to adopt as much IBM and Microsoft product as is possible, and no longer use certain competing products from the companies who brought this case.

Nearly all of the people with our philosophy are simply quietly doing this with little to no fanfare. We do not post to hobby bulletin boards. We do not spend a great deal of time in Microsoft's defense

beyond converting previous database products to either Microsoft SQL Server or IBM's DB2.

We do not now, nor have we ever, worked for Microsoft or any of its subsidiaries, and we own no more than 100 shares of their stock among us. In other words, we have no personal stake in this other than our desire to have affordable, cutting-edge, and stable software for our business.

An area of investigation that needs more scrutiny is in the area of targeting viruses to the Microsoft products. This occurs far too often to be simple cases of hobbyists causing mischief, and is one of the areas where we are gathering as much information as we can.

Finally, we are more than a little concerned about another statement on your site -- "A Counterweight to Conservative Influence" -- which indicates to us that your site is politically-driven. If this is the case, we would like to inform you that, according to a gay investment site, Microsoft is the third most gay-friendly public company in the United States, after Disney and American Express.

We ask that you reconsider your stance so that we may have this yoke off of our economy, and so that Microsoft may continue to innovate as if they were headquartered in a free country.

Warmest Regards,

Bob Nelson  
Adventek, Inc.

and for the majority of CIOs and data center directors, whose company names will follow on their letterhead by hardcopy.

cc: Microsoft, Inc.

**CC:** Microsoft ATR